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Driver arraigned in Saylor's Pizza crash

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — The driver who crashed a vehicle into the Niles Saylor's Pizza Port while fleeing police has been arraigned on charges resulting from the crash, according to the Berrien County Sheriff's Office.

Jaquan Deon Chestnut, a 21-year-old man from Chicago Heights, IL was arraigned in Berrien County's 5th district court on charges of fleeing and eluding in the 3rd degree, resisting and obstructing a police officer, and driving without a valid operator's license. He is currently being held in the Berrien County Jail on $20,000 bond.

At approximately 4:49 a.m. Tuesday, a Berrien County Sheriff's Office deputy was on patrol in Bertrand Township, Berrien County along US-12 when he observed a vehicle driving at an excessive speed. The deputy attempted to initiate a traffic stop on the dark colored SUV for the aforementioned traffic violation. The suspect vehicle then fled from the attempted traffic stop and the deputy gave chase engaging in a brief vehicular pursuit.

The pursuit ended when the suspect vehicle lost control attempting to negotiate a curve and crashed into a commercial building in the 300 block of Lincoln Ave. in the City of Niles. The suspect was the sole occupant of the vehicle he was driving and sustained non-life-threatening injuries. The suspect was taken into custody without incident at the scene of the crash.

The suspect vehicle came to rest inside the building which then ignited a structure fire causing

extensive damage to the building and the vehicle.

The suspect vehicle in this incident

See CRASH, Page A8

Buchanan commissioners take first steps toward SMCAS special assessment

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

BUCHANAN — Buchanan City Commissioners have re-established a special assessment district as the first step to approving a special assessment to support the Southwestern Michigan Community Ambulance Service.

Buchanan is one of six municipalities that own SMCAS which also contracts with two other Cass County townships to serve them. Historically, residents in the six municipalities have paid an annual assessment to support the ambulance service but a change in the SMCAS bylaws has governments revisiting the subject.

The proposal in Buchanan is to assess all residential units and commercial/industrial parcels $40 this year and then raising it until it is $50 per unit/parcel in five years. The city and other municipalities previously assessed $20 per unit/parcel for many years.

Municipalities pay their share of SMCAS expenses on a per capita basis. This year, municipalities are choosing a variety of means to pay their shares of SMCAS operations: special assessments, payments out of the general fund, a mix of the two to lower the assessment amount as well as a small millage levy.

People who spoke out, called or sent emails against establishing the district Monday were primarily concerned about seeing their tax bills go higher even if by just a small amount. City Clerk Kalla Langston noted that some who contacted her were confusing this special assessment with the August countywide votes to renew the 9-1-1 and public safety millages.

Randy Biggart noted that their property tax bill had gone from $1,800 to $2,700 a year in five years. "You're driving home ownership and businesses away," he said. "At some point, you have to say enough is enough and not require people to pay more."

Commissioner Dan Viganksy noted that it's not really an increase but a continuation of past practices. "We're just doing what we didn't do last year," he said. "Last year it was too late to do a hearing so we paid it out of the general fund."

The next steps in the process include a special meeting Monday, Sept. 30 at 8 a.m. at the Buchanan City Hall to discuss the cost side of the special assessment and a public hearing and approval of the special assessment at the commission's next regular meeting on Oct. 14. Everything has to be done by mid-October to get the assessment on the winter tax bills.

Monday's SMCAS discussion didn't mention topics that had been raised in previous meetings such as SMCAS' proposed contract to serve the city of Dowagiac and other Cass County municipalities. They lost their ambulance service last year when Pride Care pulled out of the area.

See STEPS, Page A8

FUN FESTIVITIES

Edwardsburg Area Chamber hosts annual Fall Festival

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

EDWARDSBURG — The Edwardsburg community got into the fall spirit Saturday.

The Edwardsburg Area Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual fall festival at the Edwardsburg Fire Department on Saturday.

The Fall Festival and Art Fair included booths from local businesses and organizations, activities for the kids, several local food trucks, live radio coverage and many local artists and artisans displaying and selling their work. According to Chamber President Nikki Welsch, 100 vendors were on hand for the annual event.

"We had a great turnout," she said. "The amount of vendors speaks to the interest overall too. It's just something that over the years we've tried to build. Edwardsburg is a great town and I

See FUN, Page A8

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Southwestern Michigan College launches tuition-free scholarship program

COMMUNITY REPORT

DOWAGIAC — Southwestern Michigan College's new free tuition scholarship program, the Green Light Guarantee, reinforces SMC's commitment to providing accessible and affordable education for all recent and future Michigan high school graduates pursuing a college degree.

Starting in the fall of 2025, the Green Light Guarantee's advantage is that students can attend SMC tuition-free in Michigan.

The Green Light Guarantee enhances the state Community College Guarantee program, which only covers in-district tuition costs.

"This commitment, on the part of SMC, to extend the state's new scholarship program to any recent Michigan high school graduate is indicative of our belief in the SMC difference," President Dr. Joseph L. Odenwald said. "This opens the door to high-quality academics, inspiring arts and competitive athletics in a residential setting to thousands more Michiganders."

To qualify for the Green Light Guarantee, students must meet Community College Guarantee eligibility requirements:

- Be a Michigan resident since July 1 of the previous calendar year. If you are a dependent student, your parents must have been Michigan residents since July 1 of the previous calendar year.
- Graduate from a high school in Michigan.
- Enroll at a community college as a fulltime student (at least 12 credits) within 15 months of high school graduation.

To get started, students must:

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Apply for admission to SMC at swmich.edu/apply. Students must be accepted at SMC and registered for classes to receive a final scholarship offer.

For more information about the Green Light Guarantee, visit swmich.edu/guarantee.

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OBITUARIES

Rose Marie Krieger
Gary Lynn Maxam
Richard "Rick" Ernest Brett
Dorothy Jean Hess
Hector "Jim" Rocha
Robert Campbell
Laura Skillings
Timmy D. Newton

A6

FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

"So sad to see the crash and fire at Saylor's. It will be missed."

A2

Cassopolis falls to Hartford 37-36 in Homecoming thriller B1

FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip, quip or blip? Call Frankly at (269) 687-7702 or email rich.cains@leaderpub.com

"Thank God nobody was hurt inside Saylor's Pizza. Like my dad always said, if you are looking for trouble, you will find it."

"So sad to see the crash and fire at Saylor's. It will be missed."

"I am seeing Christmas ornaments for sale... I thought Halloween came first?"

"Trump says women love him and he is "protecting them"..... How? By forcing them to have babies from rape and incest? Yes, that's now the law in several states."

"So, the new rule of thumb is a woman must go into sepsis before she can have an abortion from a dying fetus. Sepsis kills 350,000 Americans each year."

"Why vote for the same old, same old politicians with the same old loyalty to the party rather than the people."

"I hate to see Shelton's go."

"Why is it that the economy is "always" bad? Everyone always complains about it. That's just not true. Inflation today is the same as it was in 2021. Blame the gougers continuing to rack up high profits. Stop buying....."

"This Hwy 51 thing just ain't going away..... I spent 25 minutes stuck on it this week. How can these businesses survive this mess?"

"I thought interest rates were coming down? Where is the savings? Please inform me."

"NFL is rigged..... KC Chiefs and Taylor Swift are already in the Superbowl."

"Kamala Harris is not the answer. Trump is definitely not the answer."

WEATHER

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
50% Chance Rain Showers	40% Chance Rain Showers	30% Chance Rain Showers	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Sunny
73° 62°	71° 61°	74° 62°	73° 51°	63° 47°	66° 50°

SMC WOMEN'S HOOPS PROMOTES READING, SPORTSMANSHIP AT NILES SCHOOLS

COMMUNITY REPORT

NILES — The Southwestern Michigan College women's basketball continued its efforts to give back to the community last week, this time with Niles Community Schools.

The team volunteered at Eastside Connections School and Howard-Ellis Elementary last Friday. At Eastside, players read to kindergarten through second grade students. At Howard, players helped administrators introduce new playground equipment, modeled sportsmanship and played structured games during recess for kindergarten through 5th grade.

"We loved having SMC ladies basketball on Friday for recess," said Heather Loos, Assistant Principal at Howard- Ellis Elementary. "They did a great job reinforcing our recess expectations and supporting good sportsmanship. They helped to review our 3Rs respect, responsibility, and resilience in a fun and engaging way. Our kiddos had a blast playing games and dancing with the team. We may have to add a 4th R for Roadrunners as a part of our PBIS framework."

"Our team had an incredible day working with the elementary students," added Jessica Johnson, Assistant Coach SMC Women's Basketball. "It was such a rewarding experience to give back to the community. It was inspiring to see how eager they were to learn and play, and it reminded our team of the impact they can make as role models both on and off the court. We all left with full hearts, knowing we made a positive difference in their day."

For the program, the time spent at the two schools was an initiative that highlighted the team's commitment to community service, and its desire to give back.

"We want to be the definition of servant leadership," said SMC Women's Coach Jay Jenkins. "We are creating new leaders of the world and we cannot learn how to lead without being a servant. Servant leadership is a leadership style that prioritizes the needs of others over the leader's own, with the goal of creating a more just and caring world. It's based on the idea that leaders should serve first and lead second, and that the needs of others should come before the leader's own desire. 'We' over 'me.'"

"I loved sharing my love for sports with these kids, it was a great experience," added SMC freshman forward Caley Strahen.

Sophomore and former Niles basketball standout Amara Palmer was on hand and enjoyed volunteering in her community.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to make a difference, be a positive role model, and give back to my community," she said.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sept. 28

30th anniversary party

Scrapper's Rescue Corporation is hosting its 30th anniversary party from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at 217 E. Main St., Niles. Snacks, mini cupcakes, punch and water will be provided. The event will feature 30 percent off purchases totaling $75 or more and 15 percent off items from $10-$74. Proceeds to go toward rescuing animals and training suitable dogs to become service dogs for veterans and the disabled.

Oct. 6-7

Fall Rummage, Bake Sale

First United Methodist Church, 326 N. Lowe St., Dowagiac, is hosting its annual Fall Rummage and Bake Sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 6 and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7. Items include furniture, clothing, a complete full-size bed, an extra-long twin mattress and more. Saturday will feature a bag sale for $4 per bag. Buying two bags means the third bag is free. Marked clothing and other items will be half price. For more information, contact Darlene at (269) 782-8551.

October 11

Trivia Night Fundraiser

The Dowagiac Fine Arts Boosters Club is hosting a Trivia Night Fundraiser at 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 11 at VFW Post 1855. The fundraiser will be used to help provide supplemental materials for arts, music and theater at Dowagiac Union Schools and also provide scholarships for college and arts camps. Cost is$100 per table with up to 10 people per team. Teams are encouraged to bring snacks to share at the table and drinks will be available to purchase at the VFW bar. This event is for ages 21+. There will also be a silent auction, 50/50 raffle and prizes for the top three scoring teams. Registration must be completed by Friday, Oct. 4. To register, call 269-782-9208. Those with questions can call the number above or email fineartsboosters24@yahoo.com.

October 13

Newton House Festival

The Cass County Historical Society has announced its annual Fall Festival, taking place from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 13. The event will be held at the Newton House, located at 20689 Marcellus Highway, Decatur, MI, on the historical grounds. There will be guided tours of the Newton House, live music and a silent auction. Local artisans will be showcasing their talents, and Civil War reenactors will be on site with a cannon firing demonstration.

The event will also feature cider, popcorn, apples, cookies and a variety of activities including hayrides, a petting zoo and kids yard games. A kids costume contest will also be held and new this year is its first annual kids pie-eating contest.

Dowagiac native and author Ron Kirkwood will be in attendance for readings and autographs of his new book on Gettysburg's George Spangler Farm.

For more information, visit the Facebook pages for either the Newton House or the Cass County Historical Society.

Send calendar items to the newsroom at news@leaderpub.com, or drop them off at the office, 217 N. Fourth St., Niles.

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Preparing for the future

Hundreds attend SMC College Fair

COMMUNITY REPORT

DOWAGIAC — Contrary to the multitude of undecideds among more than 350 high school students attending Southwestern Michigan College's College Fair Sept. Contrary to the multitude of undecideds among more than 350 high school students attending Southwestern Michigan College's College Fair Sept. 23, Marcellus Community Schools senior Ben Aalfs is deep into researching his path to attaining his educational goals.

Aalfs sees himself combining automotive technology with business and marketing to open his own garage.

"I've checked out SMC's business courses, which are great," he said, "so I've thought about coming here for a year."

Aalfs is also looking at WyoTech, the former Wyoming Technical Institute in Laramie, which prepares students for careers as technicians in the automotive and diesel industry.

Aalfs, who divides his time between Marcellus and Van Buren Tech in Lawrence, previously attended college fairs at Michigan State and Western Michigan universities.

Aalfs is seated with another Wildcats senior interested in pursuing cybersecurity or computer networking.

A group of young women from Hartford contains an undecided, two aspiring nurses, a potential veterinarian, an animal science and zoology for exotic animal research major and a possible Roadrunner who would transfer to WMU to combine early childhood education with singing.

"I want to go into performing along with teaching," she said. "I want someplace nearby and have definitely been considering SMC."

Eleven high schools — Hartford, Dowagiac, Marcellus, Cassopolis Ross Beatty, Decatur, Lakeshore, Coloma, Countryside, Covert, Sturgis and South Haven visited with more than 30 colleges to delve into such timely topics as admissions, specific programs and financial aid.

"The student energy was great and we received numerous compliments from the college reps on the space and hospitality," SMC Adult Recruitment Manager Megan Kupres said.

Participating colleges besides SMC in 1st Source Bank Fieldhouse on the Dowagiac campus included Albion College, Alma College, Andrews University, Aquinas College, Baker College, Calvin College, Central Michigan University, Detroit's College for Creative Studies, Eastern Michigan University, Ferris State University, Glen Oaks Community College, Goshen College, Grand Valley State University, Tiffin, Ohio's Heidelberg College, Cleveland's Hiram University, Kalamazoo College, Kendall College of Art and Design, Flint's Kettering University, Southfield's Lawrence Technological University, Michigan Army National Guard, Michigan State Police, Michigan State University, Michigan Technological University, Northern Michigan University, Northwood University, Oakland University, Saginaw Valley State University, Siena Heights University, The University of Toledo, University of Detroit Mercy, University of Michigan, Western Governors University, Western Michigan University and WyoTech.

Technology is streamlining college fairs.

"StriveScan has dramatically improved efficiency and equity at fairs by removing the need for students to physically write their names on contact cards," Kupres said about an app launched in 2020.

Students register via their own phones. A barcode is texted/emailed to them immediately. Colleges download the StriveScan app to scan student phones and get access to their information instantly.

"College reps are able to get more accurate information, which we then use to send targeted communications, and students can connect with more colleges by cutting down the time they spend at each table. For example, SMC had 91 scans — the most we've ever had from a fair," Kupres said. "It took off in Indiana, but is starting to catch on in Michigan."

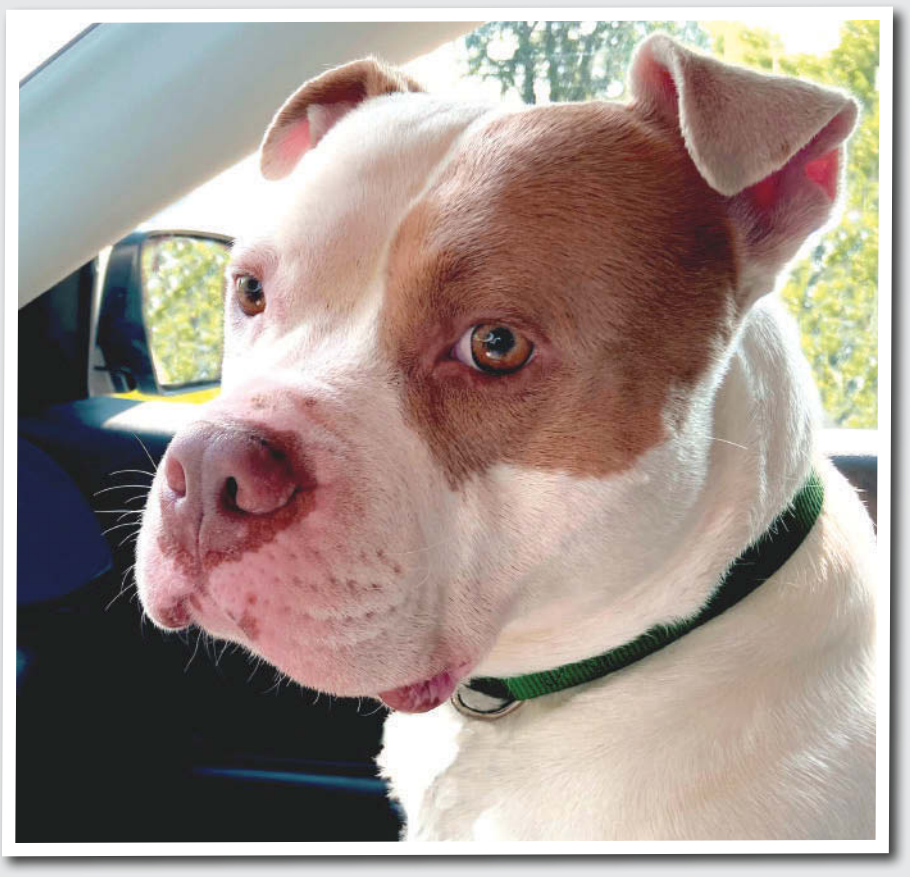
"A cool feature in StriveScan," she added, "is if a student is unable to attend, they can create a StriveScan account and request information from schools they are interested in."

SMC last hosted a career fair before the pandemic in September 2018. The college previously hosted this event in the evening. This was the first time it was offered during the daytime to invite school groups.

For those seeking more in-depth information about SMC and the new Green Light Guarantee, the college is holding an open house Oct. 1 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Student Activity Center, off Dailey Road of the Dowagiac campus.

Register for the open house today at swmich.edu/open_house. If you have questions before Oct. 1, call (800) 456-8675, ext. 2135, or email enrollment@swmich.edu.

PET OF THE WEEK



Meet **Clark**, a dog with Seven Star Sanctuary. Clark is described as overflowing with sweetness and friendliness. He has a heart as big as the world and whole he is currently undergoing heartworm treatment, his spirit remains undeterred. He has a selective taste in dog friends, showing his unique personality. Clark is housebroken and crate-trained, making him an ideal companion for any home. Clark's demeanor is one of resilience and love and he is waiting to share his endless affection. Contact sevenstarsanctuary@gmail.com.

PUBLIC LAND AUCTION

Tax-reverted real estate in Cass County will be offered at an online-only public auction at www.tax-sale.info. All bids must be placed by 5:00 pm EST on November 1st, 2024. For more information and to view the list of the properties being sold, please visit www.tax-sale.info or call 1-800-259-7470.

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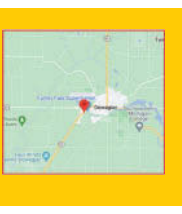

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Niles man gets prison time for drunken driving

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

NILES — A Niles man who showed up for a probation appointment drunk was sentenced to prison Monday in Berrien County Trial Court.

Albert Steven Bruster, 52, of Niles, pleaded guilty to third offense drunk driving and was sentenced to 20 months to five years in prison. He has credit for 151 days served and must pay $258 in fines and costs.

Bruster

The incident occurred April 25 in Niles Township. His blood alcohol level was .276, more than three times the legal limit.

Berrien County Assistant Prosecutor Jerry Vigansky said that Bruster was on probation for another drunk driving offense when this incident happened. "He's gambling with other people's lives, at some point his luck is going to run out," he said.

Defense attorney Carri Briseno said Bruster knows he is an alcoholic and wants to get help. She asked the judge to consider a probation sentence rather than prison. For his part, Bruster apologized for his actions and for appearing drunk before his probation agent.

"Your record isn't terrible but you do have a history of drinking and driving," Berrien County Trial Court Judge Jennifer Smith said. "You have had probation in the past and not done well even when you were given support. I have absolutely no reason to believe that even Swift & Sure probation would have an effect."

"Somehow you think it's appropriate to come drunk to your probation appointment," she added. "You put everybody in danger. You don't leave me much choice or other options. The only thing I can do is to keep you out of society. You drove here (to the courthouse) drunk and ran out of the courthouse. It's really beyond anything I've seen."

Felder

Two South Bend men were sentenced after being arrested for firearms and other charges at a Niles gas station.

Donovan Lemell Felder, 24, of South Bend, pleaded guilty to possession of a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle and driving while impaired and was sentenced to 12 days in jail with credit for two days served and $1,318 in fines and costs.

Jones

Raejaun Lagarius Jones, 25, of South Bend, pleaded guilty to possession of a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle and possession of a firearm while intoxicated and was sentenced to 15 days in jail with credit for two days served and $308 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred March 26 at a gas station on Chicago Road in Niles.

Judge Smith warned both men of the dangers of carrying a loaded firearm into and around a public establishment, calling it a "recipe for disaster".

"We have shootings in South Bend and here in Berrien County," she said. "A lot of it has to do with people carrying guns and something stupid happening. If people start shooting, somebody could end up dead, is it worth it? This is how bad things happen over something stupid."

Jaynes

A Niles man who assaulted his daughter and caused property damage was sentenced to probation and jail.

James Bernath-Eugene Jaynes, 54, of Niles, pleaded guilty to malicious destruction of personal property over $1,000 and less than $20,000, driving while impaired and disturbing the peace and was sentenced to two years probation, 60 days in jail with credit for four days served, 90 days tether and $1,968 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred March 3 in Niles Township.

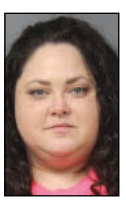
Defense attorney Sean Drew said Jaynes has been going to counseling and getting help for his anger management and other issues. Jaynes apologized for his actions and said he hopes to rebuild his relationship with his family.

Judge Smith said Jaynes acted "completely out of control". "You were angry and frustrated and took it out on your daughter," she said. "You talked about the choices she made, she's an adult, you can't control her. You're not modeling very good behavior to her or anyone else."

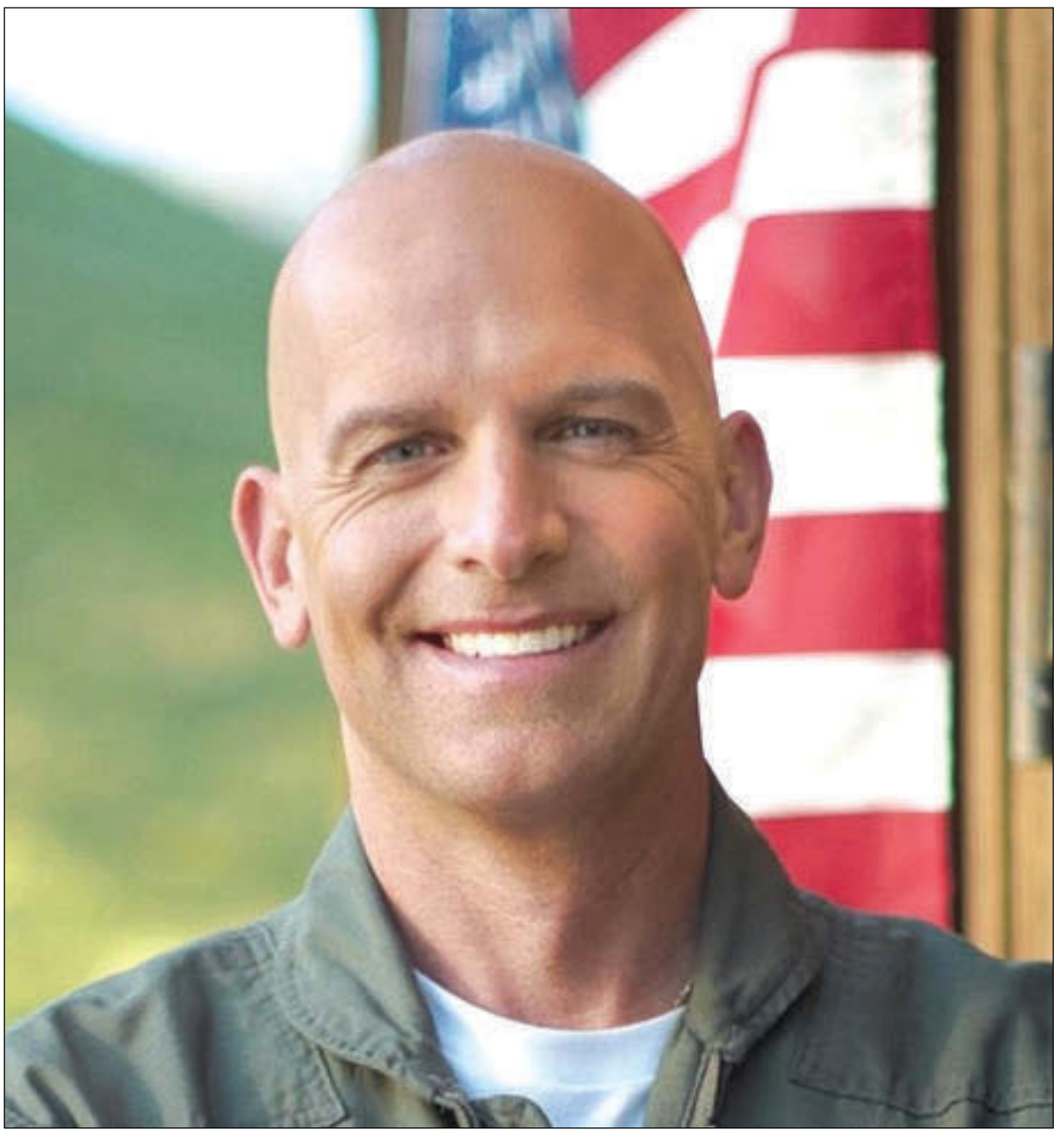
In other sentencings:

• Ryan Anothony Jaroch, 30, of Buchanan, pleaded guilty to third-degree home invasion and was sentenced to 45 days in jail with credit for 16 days served and $198 in fines and costs. The incident happened June 6 in Niles Township when he entered his mother's house without her permission.

• Jesse Lee Kelems III, 65, of Niles, pleaded guilty to possession of meth and carrying a concealed weapon and was sentenced to credit for 84 days served and $266 in fines and costs. The incident occurred Feb. 7 in Niles Township.


Reichanadter

• Amanda Renee Reichanadter, 37, of Niles, pleaded guilty to third offense drunk driving and was sentenced to two years probation in the Twin County Probation program, 75 days in jail with credit for 45 days served, 480 hours of community service and $1,938 in fines and costs. The incident occurred June 3 in Niles.



U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Dan Rooney to speak at LMC Nov. 7

COMMUNITY REPORT

BENTON HARBOR — The Lake Michigan College Mendel Center will host Lt. Col. Dan Rooney as part of the LMC Speaker Series at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 7.

Rooney is a United States Air Force fighter pilot, Folds of Honor founder, and PGA professional. He is also the author of "Fly Into the Wind: How to Harness Faith and Fearlessness on Your Ascent to Greatness" and "A Patriot's Calling: My Life as an F-16 Fighter Pilot."

Rooney will inspire the audience during his talk, "CAVU: Live Unlimited." CAVU is an aviation acronym for "ceiling and visibility unlimited." Translated, it describes the perfect conditions to be a pilot. His discussion will incorporate leadership, fighter pilot lessons, Folds of Honor, unlocking talents through faith, and embracing resistance with a resilient spirit.

A decorated F-16 fighter pilot, Rooney is best known for founding Folds of Honor, a leading non-profit organization that provides educational scholarships for children and spouses of fallen or disabled military service members and first responders. Since its inception in 2007, the foundation has provided nearly 52,000 life-changing scholarships totaling approximately $244 million.

Rooney's life calling of "inspiring people to help people" is made obvious by his variety of roles. A USA Today bestselling author, he is a highly sought-after motivational speaker who has addressed over 1,000 corporations and groups across America.

As a Class A Member of the PGA, he founded two nationally ranked golf clubs, The Patriot Golf Club in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and American Dunes Golf Club in Grand Haven, Michigan, in collaboration with Jack Nicklaus. He is a frequent guest on national media, including podcasts, radio, and network television, such as Fox News. Rooney has been recognized as one of People Magazine's "Heroes of the Year," Money Magazine's "Hero of the Year," and ABC World News Tonight's "Persons of the Year."

Rooney has continued his military service after three combat tours in Iraq, where he flew the F-16 Viper. He currently is stationed at Headquarters Air Force Recruiting Service Detachment 1 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas, where he has been given the unique position to act as a U.S. Air Force ambassador with the task of inspiring the next generation of service members to give the same devotion to the country he has so proudly demonstrated throughout his career.

Rooney is a two-time recipient of the Top Gun award and has received the Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Medal, Anti-terrorism Medal, Combat Readiness Medal, and Air Expeditionary Medal. For his service and patriotism, he was presented the White House's "Presidential Volunteer Service Award" by President George W. Bush, as well as the Air National Guard's "Distinguished Service Medal," the "Directors Service Award," and the Ellis Island "Medal of Honor."

Tickets for Rooney's presentation are available now at www.TheMendelCenter.com/events.

Local LMC students earn spots on Summer 2024 Dean's Lists

COMMUNITY REPORT

BENTON HARBOR — Lake Michigan College has announced the names of students recognized for academic achievement during the 2024 Summer semester.

142 students received accolades in three categories:

• President's List, achieving a 4.0 GPA at full-time status

• The Dean's List (full time students), achieving a 3.5 GPA or higher

• The Dean's List (part time students), achieving a 3.5 GPA or higher

Part-Time Dean's List

Berrien Center
Jennalee Ortega

Buchanan
Brooke Atkinson, Hannah Bradbury, Rachel Host, Melanie Lopez, Amanda Manasco, Anna Schnell

Dowagiac
Chloe Asmus, Dakotah Ulrath, Kelly Weaver

Eau Claire
Alexandra Jimenez, Kyle Johnson

Galien
Cassidy Clayton

Niles
Rachel Brenner, Pamela Curry, Nicholas Jenema, Luke O'Connor, Sara Sly, Shayne Taylor

Notre Dame makes 'historic' investment in affordability and access

COMMUNITY REPORT

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — The University of Notre Dame announced a historic expansion to its affordability and accessibility initiatives, becoming the first highly selective faith-based university in the United States to be need-blind for all students, both domestic and international. Notre Dame's 18th President, Rev. Robert A. Dowd, C.S.C., made this announcement during his address at his Inauguration Ceremony on Friday. In charting a course for Notre Dame, Father Dowd articulated the University's unwavering commitment as the world's leading Catholic research university to ensuring that a Notre Dame education should be affordable for all students.

Representing a historic financial aid commitment, Pathways to Notre Dame includes two significant initiatives: a new no-loan policy for undergraduate students, ensuring middle- and low-income families who are admitted will be able to afford attendance, and an expansion of its need-blind policy — an institutional commitment to not consider a student's financial circumstances when deciding

See HISTORIC, Page A7

Niles Daily Star

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COMICS & PUZZLES

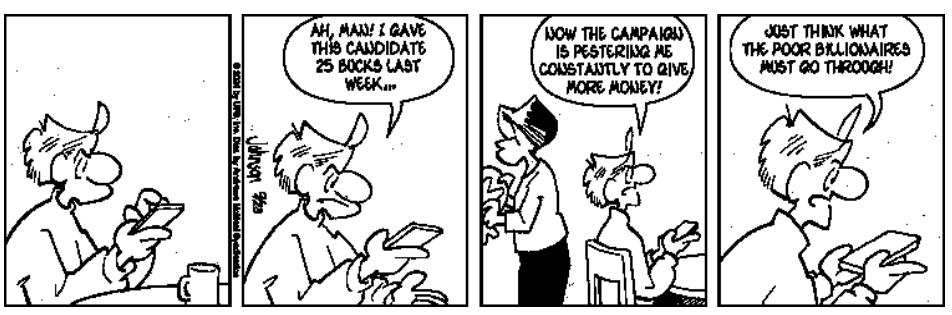
ADAM

YOUR LIPS ARE GROWING BACK?
SORT OF. THEY'RE STILL REALLY RAW.
SIP
AAUGHH!!! OW! THE PAIN! EXCRUCIATING!
MAYBE YOU COULD TRY LETTING YOUR COFFEE COOL OFF FIRST?
I'M IN BAD SHAPE, KATY, BUT I'M NOT A MONSTER.

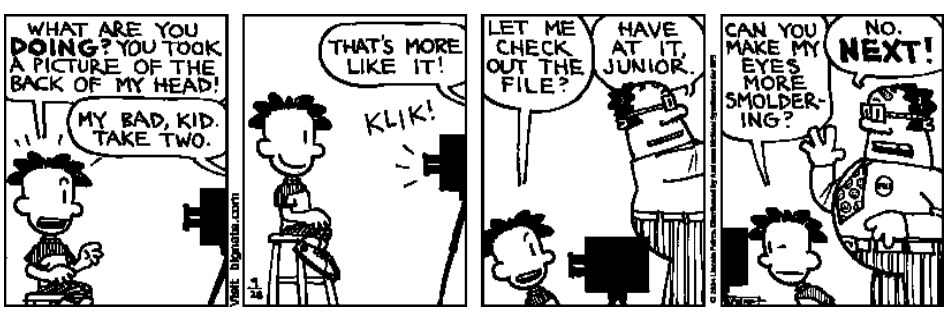
ALLEY OOP

I LIKE THE NEW NAME, DOC! I DON'T KNOW WHO TORU IS, THOUGH.
NOW THAT WE HAVE A SIGN, I GUESS WE NEED TO FIX UP THE INSIDE?
IT'S ALREADY DONE! I DID IT WHILE WE WERE OUT HERE TALKING!
ALL BY YOURSELF? YOU'RE INCREDIBLE!
I DON'T DISAGREE.
HEY, BUB. ME AND MY BIG GUYS ARE STILL WAITIN' FOR YOU TO PAY US. AND THERE BETTER NOT BE NO ASTERISKS!

ARLO & JANIS


AH, MAN! I GAVE THIS CANDIDATE 25 BUCKS LAST WEEK...
NOW THE CAMPAIGN IS PESTERING ME CONSTANTLY TO GIVE MORE MONEY!
JUST THINK WHAT THE POOR BILLIONAIRES MUST GO THROUGH!

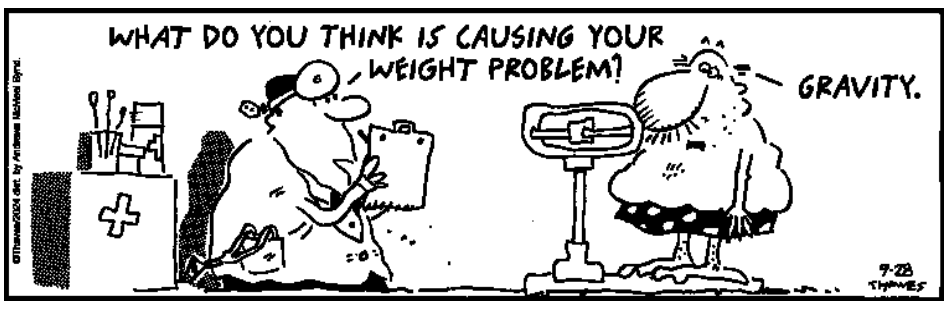
BIG NATE


WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU TOOK A PICTURE OF THE BACK OF MY HEAD!
MY BAD, KID. TAKE TWO.
THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!
KLIK!
LET ME CHECK OUT THE FILE?
HAVE AT IT, JUNIOR.
CAN YOU MAKE MY EYES MORE SMOLDERING?
NO. NEXT!

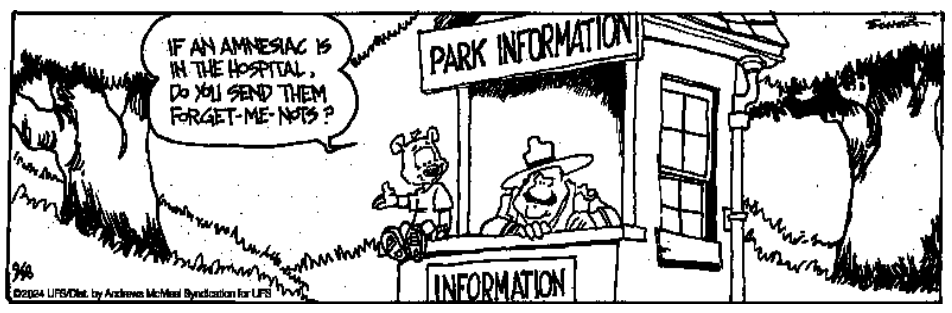
BORN LOSER

I JUST SENT YOU TO THE GROCERY STORE FOR EGGS, HOW DID YOU END UP WITH FOUR BAGS OF FOOD?
I WAS HUNGRY.
NEXT TIME, REMIND ME TO FEED YOU BEFORE YOU GO TO THE GROCERY STORE!

FRANK & ERNEST



GRIZZWELLS



THATABABY

It's hard to sleep when your brain is befuddled!
I mean, way back when, reptiles could fly!!!
So why aren't today's reptiles evolving to reclaim that biological advantage?
BELIEVE ME, WE'RE TRYING!

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SODOKU PUZZLE

HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

DIFFICULTY RATING: 5/5

ANSWER ON PAGE 6

				6				5
		6	4	2	8			7
2					1		8	
			8	9			7	
	5			7			2	
	8			4	5			
	9		5					6
1			7	8	4	3		
8				3				

MODERATELY CONFUSED

WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORRY ABOUT HOW MUCH YOU'RE SPENDING HERE?
Menu
STAHLER. 9/28
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REALITY CHECK

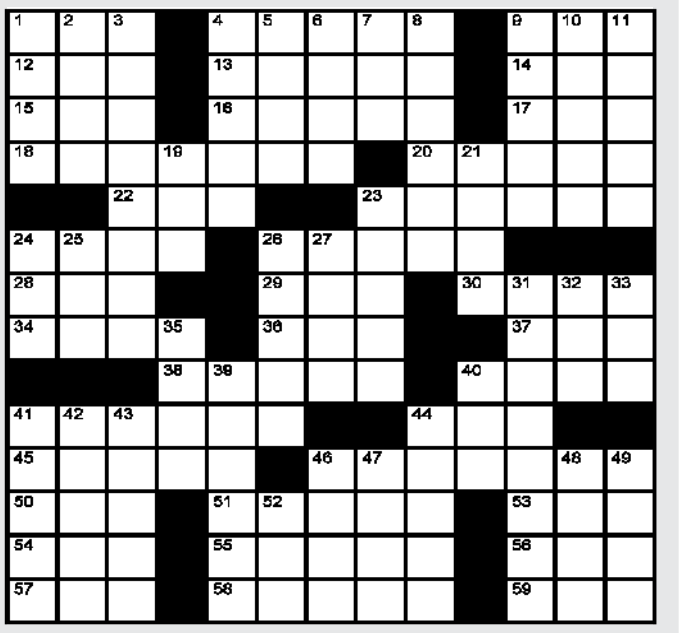
RALPH GETS ALL HOITY-TOITY:
HEY. ARE YOU RALPH?
ACTUALLY, IT'S PRONOUNCED 'RAFE'- LIKE RALPH FIENNES
"JUST KIDDIN'! I'M MORE DOWN TO EARTH THAN THAT.-TOSS IT UP IN THE TREE.--THEN PACK DOWN TO EARTH.--THEN UP AN' THE RAKE!"

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Follow a curved path
4 Like better
9 '80s sci-fi comedy
12 — Grande
13 Resembling sheep
14 Boston — Party
15 Past
16 Ascended
17 Tater —
18 Honeyed pastry
20 Think
22 Method
23 Smithereens
24 Unexpected difficulty
26 Job
28 Corn spike
29 Long arm of the —
30 Rind
34 Looks at
36 Common verb
37 Stringed instrument, for short
38 Also-ran
40 Raced
41 Accumulate (2 wds.)
44 Cheer for the team
45 Lab substances
46 Hit show byproduct
50 Transgress
51 Wyoming range
53 Kind of deer
54 Spread to dry
55 Antelope
56 Anger
57 Altar constellation
58 Ceremonies
59 Georgia airport code

DOWN
1 Graceful horse
2 Latvia's capital
3 Pots and pans
4 Raid
5 Tel —
6 Word on a card
7 The loneliest number
8 French painter
9 Garret
10 Sierra —
11 Group of three goddesses
19 Fall behind
21 Chick's cry
23 Strength
24 Understand
25 Vote against
26 Hold tight
27 Fabled runner in a race
31 Exhilaration
32 Get with effort (with "out")
33 Bulb type
35 Coaster
39 Forced removal
40 — Antonio
41 Ristorante fare
42 Colder
43 Actress — Hamilton
44 Outer layers
46 "Right away!"
47 Corn bread
48 Army post
49 Texture
52 Yale student

ANSWER ON PAGE 6



9-28

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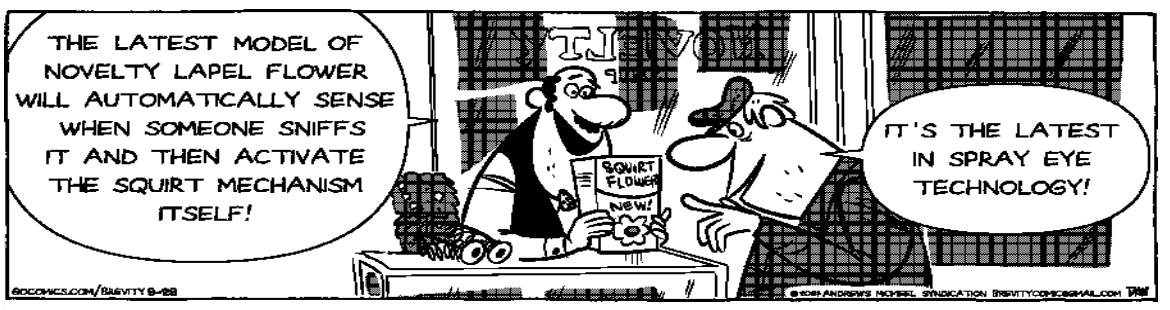
BREVITY


THE LATEST MODEL OF NOVELTY LAPEL FLOWER WILL AUTOMATICALLY SENSE WHEN SOMEONE SNIFFS IT AND THEN ACTIVATE THE SQUIRT MECHANISM ITSELF!
IT'S THE LATEST IN SPRAY EYE TECHNOLOGY!
SQUIRT FLOWER
NOW!

HEART OF THE CITY

STRIKE!
YOU'RE REALLY GOOD! YOU SHOULD COMPETE.
NAH, I ALREADY DO MYSTICS: THE GROUPING TOURNAMENTS. YOU GOTTA HAVE A LOW-STAKES HOBBY.
MAYBE I SHOULD GET SOME LOW-STAKES HOBBIES.
BOWLING'S PRETTY FUN.

DEATH NOTICES

Rose Marie Krieger, 91, of Niles, Michigan, passed away on September 23, 2024. Arrangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Memorial for **Gary Lynn Maxam** who died August 24, 2024: Celebration of Gary's Life will be held at Smith's Chapel, 29858 Redfield Street, Niles at 2:00 p.m., October 3, 2024

Richard "Rick" Ernest Brett, 63, passed away on Wednesday, September 18, 2024 in Niles, Michigan. Arrangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Dorothy Jean Hess, 90, passed away on Friday, September 20, 2024 in Niles, Michigan. Arrangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

OBITUARIES

Hector "Jim" Rocha

July 23, 1934 - September 13, 2024

Hector Armando "Jim" Rocha, 90, of Wilder, Tennessee, died September 13, 2024.

His life began July 23, 1934, in Rio Grande, Texas, one of four born to Jose and Tina (Perez) Rocha.

Jim served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War and was very proud of his service. He enjoyed spending time with other veterans at the VFW hall. He also enjoyed spending time outside golfing and hunting.

Jim will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by daughter, Kim and her husband, Les Zillmer of Punta Gorda, Florida; sons, Christopher and his wife, Kim Rocha of Wilder, Tennessee, Nick Rocha of Huntington Beach, California; several grandchildren, Nicholas, Kristen, Amanda, Mary; and his sister, Rosa "Cookie" and her husband Zeke Hand of Niles, MI,

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Joe "Sash" Rocha; sister Ida Bucha; and grandson, Matthew Zillmer.

Family and friends will gather Monday, September 23, 2024, from 11:00 am until time of service at 12:00 noon in Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services, 615 East Main Street, Niles.

Jim will be laid to rest Monday, September 23, 2024, at 1:30 pm Eastern Daylight Time, 12:30 pm Central Daylight Time, in Patton Cemetery, 1401 Rumely Street, LaPorte, Indiana 46350.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services, 615 East Main Street,

Niles. Please share a memory or a message online: halbritterwickens.com.

Robert Campbell

July 28, 1936 - September 19, 2024

Robert S. Campbell, 88, of Dowagiac, passed away on Thursday evening, September 19, 2024, at his home with his family by his side.

He was born on July 28, 1936, in Pittsburgh, PA, the son of the late John and Marie (Steiner) Campbell. Growing up in Aspinwall, PA, Bob was a 1954 graduate of Aspinwall High School. He continued his education at Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA, where he earned his Master's of Science degree in education. On April 28, 1962, Bob was united in marriage to Linda G. Strickler. He was employed by Southwestern Michigan College in Dowagiac for many years and retired after 28 years as Dean of Financial Aid. Bob had a lovely voice, often performing solos, and was a member of the church choir for 51 years.

Surviving are his wife of 62 years - Linda Campbell; two children - Bruce Campbell and Judith Groat; two grandchildren - Austin and Bailey Groat; nephew - John (Sharon) Campbell III; and three nieces - Pam Campbell, Lou Ann (Tom) Peterson, and Barbara (Tim) Schwob; stepsiblings Irene (Alan) Weirritty and Skip (Kathy) Meinhardt.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother and sister-in-law - John Jr. and Lois Campbell; and stepmother - Irene Campbell.

A service to celebrate Bob's life will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, September 28, 2024, at First United Methodist Church, 326 N. Lowe St, Dowagiac, where friends may visit with the family from 10:00 AM until the time of service. Memorial contributions in Bob's name may be directed to First United Methodist Church or Southwestern Michigan College Foundation, 58900 Cherry Grove Road, Dowagiac, MI. Arrangements were entrusted to Clark Chapel - Starks Family Funeral Homes, Dowagiac. Please visit Bob's personalized webpage to share a memory or leave a condolence to his family at www.clarkch.com.

Laura Skillings

Laura Skillings, 61, of Lansing, Michigan, passed away on September 5, 2024, after a monthlong illness. The youngest of three, Laura was known for her direct yet playful spirit, and her kind and generous support of others.

Laura attended Waverly High School, Lansing Community College, obtained a history degree from Western Michigan University, and a master's degree in education from Colorado State University.

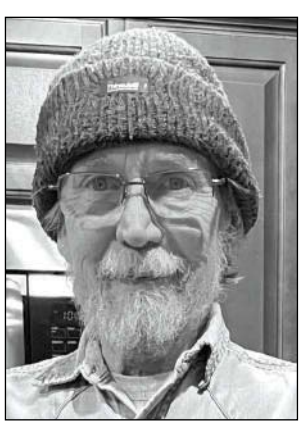
Laura became a community college counselor, working with non-traditional students in: Colby, Kansas; Page, Arizona; Fort Collins, Colorado; and, Niles, Michigan. She guided students with wisdom, practicality, and humor, helping them navigate the challenges of academia and personal strife.

Laura enjoyed friends, University of Michigan football, scrapbooking, reading, and traveling. Her passion in life were her rescue cats—Kitty, Kit & Kat, and Luna.

Laura will be deeply missed by her sister Carol Skillings, brother-in-law Thomas Stanton, brother

Jerry Skillings, sister-in-law Abby Spector, and niece Anna Skillings, as well as cousins, devoted friends and numerous acquaintances. She was predeceased by her parents, Dorothy Matz Skillings and Walter Skillings.

Memories may be recorded on the Dignity Memorial website. Contributions in Laura's memory may be made to Saved by Zade, a local cat rescue organization.



Timmy D. Newton

March 6, 1959 - September 24, 2024

Timmy "Tim" Dan Newton, 65, of Cassopolis, died suddenly Tuesday September 24, 2024, in the comfort of his family's presence.

His life began March 6, 1959 in Jonesboro, Arkansas, the third of eight born to Billy and Violet Newton. He married Glenna Peterson June 27, 1987 in Cassopolis Michigan. She survives.

Tim had a big heart and would help anyone. He was a hard worker, sometimes working multiple jobs. He was an electrician, but also was a mechanic, painted cars, welded and a jack of all trades. Tim liked to keep busy. He enjoyed camping, kayaking and being outdoors. Tim was the deep- fried turkey master. He loved to cook, work in his garden, and especially spend time with his family.

Tim will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his wife, Glenna Newton; one daughter, Danielle Kasper of Berrien Springs; one son, Chris (Lacey) Newton of Cassopolis; two step-daughters, Veronica (Robert) Wallace, Kristina Compton; six grandchildren; two great grandchildren; three sisters, Shiela Hensley, Mari Hansen, Ruby Hyser; one brother, Jerry Newton and a host of nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his son, Trenton Newton; two grandsons; sister, Jane Fogg; brothers, Mark Newton, Pete Newton, and his parents.

Family and friends will gather Monday, September 30, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. until time of service at 12 Noon in Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, 202 North Broadway Street, Cassopolis.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Tim be made to American Cancer Society, donate.cancer.org

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

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GROUP TRIPS 2024
November 16: A Beautiful Notice - The Neil Diamond Musical - Cadillac Palace Theater in Chicago and a delicious lunch at the berghoff Restaurant.
December 4: The Texas Tenors - Deep in the Heart of Christmas - Blue Gate Performing Arts Center in Shipshewana, IN. Enjoy a delicious lunch and holiday show by the most successful music group in the history of America's Got Talent.
See our website or call for more information

Cass County commissioners approve budget

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

CASSOPOLIS — Cass County Commissioners approved a new budget Tuesday at a special county board meeting but it wasn't unanimously supported by commissioners or the public. The new budget is for the 2025 fiscal year that starts Oct. 1.

The new budget is a balanced one, thanks to the use of $1.566 million from the county's fund balance of $6.8 million. Cass County Administrator Matthew Newton noted last week that the budget had initially had a deficit of over $3 million before adjustments were made after commissioners requested in late August that the deficit be reduced.

The vote to approve the budget was 5-3. Voting yes were Sam Barrera, Jeremiah Jones, James Lawrence, RJ Lee and Joyce Locke. Voting no were Mary Howie, Ryan Laylin and Roseann Marchetti.

The budget approval vote came after commissioners deadlocked 4-4 on a motion to amend the budget to take out an administrative assistant position in the county administration department. The vote there had Barrera, Howie, Lawrence and Lee voting to amend the budget and Jones, Laylin, Locke and Marchetti voting no.

Those wanting to amend the budget to not include the position-which costs $50,000 taken from the administration and finance department-primarily because other departments weren't allowed to add positions or hire new people. They added that someone shouldn't be hired for that position until a classification and compensation study is done later this year.

The argument on the other side was that the position isn't new, it just hasn't been filled recently. Newton added that having an administrative assistant for his department to do routine work and answer public questions will free the existing staff including himself to do other tasks.

One of those questioning having the administrative assistant position funded in the new budget was Sheriff Richard Behnke.

"I heard of the new position for the administrator office and I found that surprising," he said. "During budget meetings, we were told to find ways to cut services, combine services or make our operations more efficient so we don't need to have as many people."

"We were told not to ask for more people because there wasn't the money to do that," he added. "We were told that the county clerk is in need of someone to help with elections and that the county treasurer is taking on additional responsibilities that are not part of her statutory duties ... Then I found out that the rules were changed for one office, that's disappointing."

Behnke said that Barrera made a good point to wait to add the position until after the compensation study is done.

"Then there would be more information about the needs for that position," he said. "A lot of us didn't put in for anything extra because we were told the money wasn't there."

Resident Lynn Schantz had a more general concern. She said she had attended the budget discussion at last week's Committee of the Whole meeting and heard talk about funds being moved around and drug enforcement millage funds being used to fund a new prosecutor position and a new sheriff's deputy position.

"I want to know how much has been used and where it was put," she said. "Was it used for law enforcement or

See BUDGET, Page A7

In Loving Memory
Kathleen (Stoner) Marazita
SEPTEMBER 30, 1924-MAY 13, 2019

The 2nd of 4 children born to Lester and Lottie Stoner, Mom was an amazing daughter-sister-wife- mother-grandmother and friend. Despite growing up on a farm during the great depression, Mom lived life to the fullest with her love for family, God, and country. In addition to her artistic talent and sunny-side disposition, she bridge walked all the biggies (Golden Gate-Brooklyn-Mackinac), and really enjoyed traveling. Adversity never stood in her way, et she was much too busy to die. Her wandering spirit led her to Egypt where she rode camels, et explored the Great Pyramid and also enjoyed her trips to Italy and Israel. From her work at Bendix during WW II she remained proud of her membership in the American Rosie the Riveter Association. Definitely Mom enjoyed all her seasons in the sun with her family et life's adventures while raising 6 children. On V.J. Day August 15, 1945, she married Paul Marazita (whom she met on the dance floor at Barron Lake) at St. Mary's in Niles MI. In 1947, they opened the Marz Sweet Shop in Buchanan and operated it together until Paul's death on August 30, 1995.
She continued to operate the store with the help of her family until June 10, 2005, when she sold the business after 57 years of ownership. She truly was a role model for her family and community.
All your family loves et misses you very much — forever in our hearts.
We know you are celebrating your 100th Birthday (sorry Mom, 39th had to end sometime) in Heaven with Dad while sharing a double dipped chocolate soda.

CROSSWORD ANSWER
From Page 5

A	R	C	■	F	A	V	O	R	■	A	L	F
R	I	O	■	O	V	I	N	E	■	T	E	A
A	G	O	■	R	I	S	E	N	■	T	O	T
B	A	K	L	A	V	A	■	O	P	I	N	E
■	■	W	A	Y	■	■	P	I	E	C	E	S
S	N	A	G	■	C	H	O	R	E	■	■	■
E	A	R	■	■	L	A	W	■	P	E	E	L
E	Y	E	S	■	A	R	E	■	■	U	K	E
■	■	■	L	O	S	E	R	■	S	P	E	D
P	I	L	E	U	P	■	■	R	A	H	■	■
A	C	I	D	S	■	S	P	I	N	O	F	F
S	I	N	■	T	E	T	O	N	■	R	O	E
T	E	D	■	E	L	A	N	D	■	I	R	E
A	R	A	■	R	I	T	E	S	■	A	T	L

SUDOKU ANSWER
From Page 5

4	1	8	9	6	7	2	3	5
5	3	6	4	2	8	1	9	7
2	7	9	3	5	1	6	8	4
6	2	4	8	9	3	5	7	1
9	5	3	1	7	6	4	2	8
7	8	1	2	4	5	9	6	3
3	9	7	5	1	2	8	4	6
1	6	2	7	8	4	3	5	9
8	4	5	6	3	9	7	1	2

Police searching for suspect in Vandalia shooting

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

VANDALIA — The Cass County Sheriff's Office is searching for a suspect who reportedly shot a man after an argument ensued outside a home in Vandalia.

Sheriff Richard J. Behnke reports that at approximately 1:51 a.m. Wednesday, his office was called to investigate a shooting that occurred at 18089 State St., Vandalia. The investigation showed that two males were having a verbal argument when the argument turned physical. One male, a 24-year-old, was shot in the foot. The other male fled the scene before deputies arrived. The gunshot victim was transported to Elkhart General Hospital for non-life-threatening injuries. The suspect remains at large and his name is being withheld at this time. There is no public threat currently. This investigation is ongoing.

Anyone with information about this incident is encouraged to call the Cass County Sheriff's Office at (269) 445-1560 or the Cass County Tip Line at (800) 462-9328. Assisting agencies included: Pokagon Tribal Police Department, Dowagiac Police Department, Michigan State Police, Cassopolis Police Department, SMCAS Ambulance and Penn Fire Department with a drone.

Jones man gets prison time for fatal Newberg Township crash

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

CASSOPOLIS — Sept. 20 Cass County Circuit Court sentences included prison sentences for an Indiana drug dealer and a Jones resident who drove recklessly causing the death of his passenger.

Ke-Shawn Gene Buck, 27, of Jones, pleaded guilty to reckless driving causing death and was sentenced to two to 15 years in prison with credit for one day served and $2,758 in fines and costs.

Buck

The incident occurred Aug. 8, 2023 when Buck was speeding on Born Street in Newberg Township, passing a truck and going through a stop sign at 96 miles per hour before losing control of his car and crashing. His passenger, Kierstin Johnson, was killed and he received major injuries leaving him a quadriplegic.

Johnson's mother spoke before the sentencing, saying that the accident had destroyed her family. "It's been horrific, we will never be the same," she said. "I just want to see him pay for the consequences of his actions. You don't get to recklessly take a life and for what?"

Assistant Prosecutor Jason Ronning said that while some would say Buck has already suffered enough with his injuries, his response is that people have to take responsibility for their actions.

"The question before the court is should he be sentenced to incarceration or a supervised sentence because of his injuries," he said. "His injuries is the consequence, prison is the sentence. He did it with a passenger and he needs to face the consequences for that."

Defense attorney Robert Kardatzke called it a horrible tragedy for everybody involved. "Nothing the court can do is worse than what he's already received," he said. "He is a quadriplegic and needs 24 hour care. I don't think the court can do anything to further deter him."

Buck said he loved Johnson and said he goes "through hell every day."

Cass County Circuit Court Judge Mark Herman said he didn't doubt that Buck wishes that he could go back, that he didn't intend to hurt anyone and that it could all be undone. "But when I look at you driving your vehicle at that speed and at that location, I don't know what you expected to happen," the judge said.

"You were reckless to the point that it happened," he added. "... It looks like because of your temper, she's deceased and you have a lifetime disability. It's a lesson learned the hard way. I'm left to deal with the aftermath. No matter what happens neither you or her family will ever feel vindicated. There's really nothing I can do that makes anyone feel better."

Harold Monroe Matthews, 50, of Elkhart, pleaded guilty to possession with intent to deliver 450 to 999 grams of cocaine and fleeing and eluding police, both as a habitual offender, and was sentenced to 15 to 30 years in prison, credit for three days served and $1,748 in fines and costs.

Matthews

The incident occurred Jan. 10, 2023 in Mason Township when undercover officers arranged to purchase drugs from him. He was recently sentenced in Indiana to 29 years in prison. This sentence is concurrent with that sentence and Matthews can serve the Michigan sentence in any penal institution.

Judge Herman noted that he's known Matthews from the time he was a juvenile appearing before him. "I dealt with you in juvenile court 30 years ago and talked with you about what happens when you're dealing drugs," he said. "You said you could make more money dealing drugs. I could tell that I was not getting through to you."

"What you have at age 50?" he asked. "It gives me no joy to sentence you. You were a likeable kid and had so much potential ... I'm sorry to see your life destroyed by drugs. I hope you take advantage of your sentence modification in Indiana, you may get out after 11 years."

An Edwardsburg woman who drove drunk and injured her passenger was sentenced to probation and jail.

Rickey

Jeri Lynn Rickey, 52, of Edwardsburg, pleaded guilty to operating while intoxicated causing serious injury and operating with a suspended or revoked license causing serious injury and was sentenced to three years probation, 365 days in jail with credit for six days served, 120 days tether, $4,196 in fines and costs and $345 in restitution.

The incident occurred Jan. 21, 2023 on Hess Road in Edwardsburg when she lost control of the car and hit a tree. Her passenger was thrown from the car. Her blood alcohol level was .235, nearly three times the legal limit and she and the passenger both admitted they were drinking shots of vodka while she was driving. She also had other drugs in her system.

"This is your fifth conviction for drunk driving going back 25 years," the judge said. "You don't seem to get the point that you can't drink and drive. You need to learn that doing vodka shots at a right rate of speed is not going to get you anywhere. It's time you learned that society has had enough, I'm not going play patty cake with you."

"I'm done with your drinking and driving," he added. "If you see me again, you're going to prison. You can drink yourself to death at home, but if you get behind the wheel of a car, you're going to prison."

In other sentences:

• Kayla Nicole Clark, 28, of Marcellus, pleaded guilty to attempted resisting police reduced from being an accessory after the fact to a felony and was sentenced to $1,608 in fines and costs. The incident occurred Jan. 20 in Marcellus when her boyfriend shot her brother. Her boyfriend is currently in prison.

Clark

• Eliezer Flores Duran, 42, of Elkhart, pleaded guilty to third degree fleeing police and was sentenced to one year probation, credit for 86 days served and $1,908. The incident occurred Dec. 10, 2023 in Howard Township. He already has served a jail term for the Berrien County part of the incident.

Duran

• Carl Martin Fields, 54, of Marcellus, pleaded guilty to attempted felonious assault and was sentenced to two years probation, credit for three days served, $1,918 in fines and costs and restitution to be determined. The incident occurred Sept. 18, 2023 in Marcellus.

Fields

• Wayne Sherman Mason, 60, of Elkhart, pleaded guilty to possession of meth and was sentenced to two years probation, credit for three days served and $1,978 in fines and costs. The incident occurred May 30 in Vandalia. He can get the charge off his record if he's successful on probation.

Mason

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HISTORIC

Continued from page A4

whether to admit them — to include both domestic and international students. Notre Dame is now one of only nine highly selective colleges and universities that have a need-blind admissions policy for all students.

"We want an undergraduate student body that reflects the rich diversity of the Catholic community in and beyond the United States, which requires a Notre Dame education be both accessible and affordable," Father Dowd said. "We are profoundly grateful for the extraordinary generosity of those benefactors who have made it possible for us to take this important next step in ensuring that every student who is admitted will have the opportunity to attend the University, no matter their financial circumstances or where in the world they call home."

"The University has throughout its history been committed to welcoming students from all walks of life and providing them with a distinctive Notre Dame education, one that seeks to educate the mind as well as the heart," John B. Veihmeyer, chair of the Board of Trustees, said. "Today's announcement will ensure that the University is able to carry forward this proud tradition in important new ways, welcoming students from across the U.S. and around the globe and creating an even more vibrant learning environment for all."

Effective immediately, Notre Dame will not consider the financial situation of students or their families, domestic or international, in the application for admission. Student loans will not be a component of the financial aid offer for full-time first-year and transfer undergraduate students entering fall 2025; instead, that need will be met with gift aid. While Notre Dame will not include loans in financial aid packages, families may still elect to take out federal student or private loans.

"Pathways to Notre Dame reflects Notre Dame's commitment to attracting students who seek academic excellence and have the desire, curiosity and zeal that is at the heart of a Notre Dame education," Vice President for Undergraduate Enrollment Micki Kidder said. "These initiatives will remove barriers for talented and faith-filled students to flourish here, regardless of their families' financial circumstances."

"At Notre Dame, we are called to be seekers of truth, sustainers of hope and builders of bridges," Father Dowd said. "By extending and expanding the opportunities we are able to offer students, we seek to prepare the next generation of capable, compassionate, ethical leaders for our communities, our nation and the world."

BUDGET

Continued from page A6

did it go somewhere else in the budget? I want a transparent board and transparent commissioners."

The action on the budget came after months of work by county staff to develop it. Newton said at last week's Committee of the Whole meeting that work on the budget starts in the spring as he and department heads project staffing needs.

"There is a lot of effort, blood, sweat and tears that go into the process," he said.

County Board Chairman Jeremiah Jones said last week that he wants to see commissioners focus more on the budget throughout the year.

"It's a good point to see where we're at throughout the year," he said. "So if others come asking for money, we'd have a better idea of how much money we have."

"This year we kept saying yes you can have this or yes you can have that and now we had a $3 million deficit and we never talked about this," he added. "People have asked how did this happen. As long as I'm chair, every committee of the whole meeting will have a discussion on the budget."

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FUN

Continued from page A1

don't think a lot of people are really familiar with it, so for people from surrounding communities to be able to visit our town is huge."

In addition, a large chalkboard was set up for guests to write down what they love about Edwardsburg. Fall Festival co-organizer Dennis Anderson said that the chalkboard will be sealed so it can be preserved.

"It's nice to have the community come together," Anderson said. "I've heard nothing but good things from everybody around here. I like that this brings everyone together with the positivity and the communal feeling of belonging."

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CRASH

Continued from page A1

was later determined not to be stolen. However, it was a vehicle of interest in an unrelated crime in Evergreen Park, IL. The Berrien County Sheriff's Office is coordinating with the Evergreen Park Police Department in the furtherance of their investigation.

Involved agencies include Berrien County Sheriff's Office Patrol, Berrien County Sheriff's Office Niles Township Patrol, Niles Police Department, Niles Fire Department, SMCAS Ambulance, Niles Township Fire Department, Buchanan City Fire Department, Howard Township Fire Department, Berrien County Public Safety Dispatch Center, Millin Towing.

Leaderpub.com will be updated when more information is available.

STEPS

Continued from page A1

People also didn't touch on the possibility of SMCAS merging with Medic 1 which serves most of the rest of Berrien County. SMCAS operations manager Josh Kay said Monday outside of the meeting that a possible merger with Medic 1 is just in the discovery stages and would be years away.

Monday's meeting featured updates on city projects as well as the renewal of a proposal to bring pickleball to the city.

Biggart also spoke about pickleball which he first brought to the commission more than a year ago. Commissioners encouraged him to work again with the Buchanan Area Recreation Board to come up with plans. They agreed that it would be a good project for the city and suggested that Ravish Park would be a good site.

On city projects, City Manager Tim Lynch said that work is progressing on a couple of fronts and that the city has been informed that it will be getting a $558,500 grant to locate and identify lead service lines in the city. The grant comes from the federal government through the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy.

Lynch also said that the design work is complete on replacing the retaining wall on a section of East Front Street. The next step will be to go out for bids to do the work. The wall has been crumbling for a number of years and people cannot walk along that section of sidewalk.

Monday's meeting also featured a water quality presentation from Marcy Hamilton of the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, the renewal of three adult use and one medical marijuana permits and a contract with Solberg Knowles & Associates of Zeeland, Mich. to do chemical feed and other maintenance at the water plant for $6,795.

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FOOTBALL

CASSOPOLIS

FALLS TO HARTFORD 37-36 IN HOMECOMING THRILLER

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

CASSOPOLIS —The Cassopolis football team dropped a hazy Homecoming night heartbreaker to Hartford Friday, Sept. 20.

The Huskies scored the go-ahead touchdown with just over one minute to play and its defense stopped quarterback Lucas Williams near the end zone as time expired to earn a 37-36 victory over Cassopolis in a Southwest 10 thriller on the Rangers' homecoming at William F. Scott Field.

"We had ample opportunities to win the game," Lee said. "This is a young team so we're going to build off of this. Cass is gonna be back. It's gonna be fine."

Trailing 37-36 in the closing seconds, Williams found receiver Jaylen Pratt for a 34-yard pass play on 4th and 1 to Hartford 1-yard line. A delay of game penalty against Cassopolis put the ball on the six-yard line. With 16 second left, Williams went to Pratt in the end zone but he was unable to hold onto the catch.

With nine seconds remaining, the Rangers opted for one more chance at the end zone before trying for a field goal but Williams was tackled while running to his left as time expired.

"All I ask is for them to give me the best that they've got and compete," Lee said. "I was disappointed in the outcome. We had a chance with nine seconds left to win the game. They fought and I can't ask for anything else as a head coach."

After a slow start to the game, the two teams began trading touchdowns starting in the second quarter. Williams and Higgins touchdown runs gave the Rangers a 14-8 lead at halftime. The game was 22-22 after three quarters.

Sophomore Lane Leach led the Rangers with 16 tackles on defense. Williams completed 7 of 19 passes for 228 yards and one touchdown pass and added a 2-yard rushing touchdown and Anthony Higgins had five carries for 81 yards and a 73-yard touchdown.

"(Williams and Higgins) are a couple of our captains. When we need something done, they usually do it," Lee said. "Williams is a sophomore, he hasn't played a lot of football but he's grown up. (Higgins) has been here, he's taken the lumps with us, but he's a senior and knows what it takes to compete and he did it again tonight. We can't ask much more from these kids, they competed the whole way."

Cassopolis (0-4) will regroup and gear up to face Centreville (1-3) at 7 p.m. Friday at Centreville. While the loss was a bitter pill to swallow, Lee believes the team is heading in the right direction.

"We'll break down this film on Monday and build off of it," Lee said. "This is a good thing – we could have did better but we're going in the right direction. It's not going to happen overnight – it's' a marathon, not a sprint. That's what we tell these boys every day. Keep building, keep building and they got better tonight as a team."

Cassopolis 0 14 8 14
Hartford 0 8 14 15

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

TRACK

Local club track program celebrates season with banquet

By MAXWELL HARDEN
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NILES — A local AAU track team recently celebrated its season with its inaugural team banquet.

Friends and family gathered at St. Mark Catholic Parish Saturday, Sept. 21 to celebrate the accomplishments of Team Love Track. The event featured food as well as an award ceremony.

Founded three years ago by former Niles track standout Andre Love, the program consists of athletes ranging from 5 to 18 years of age from throughout Southwest Michigan who compete in indoor and outdoor meets across the state.

"A lot of these athletes go to the middle school and the high school have been running for me for the past four or five years," Love said. "This was something to celebrate. This means a lot to me. It's small but it means a lot to me."

Love, who is also a pastor, said he created the program to prepare athletes to compete at the AAU Junior Olympic Games and is proud of his team's efforts. Last year, 24 members of the team qualified for the Junior Olympic Games.

15 members of the Team Love Track club team qualified for the 2024 AAU Junior Olympic Games, which featured 19,000 athletes and an estimated 40,000 spectators competing in a variety of sports, including track and field, swimming, martial arts, and more.

The names of qualifiers are as follows: Aydan Mccary (Senior, 14.5 110-meter hurdles), Caleb Patterson, Carter Brann, Olen Simmons, Andrew Love, Chad Patterson, Danyel Nelson Jr., John Brickley (Seventh grade, 2:11 in 800), Addison

See BANQUET, Page B2

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Friends and family gathered at St. Mark Catholic Parish Saturday, Sept. 21 to celebrate the accomplishments of Team Love Track.

VOLLEYBALL

SMC Volleyball takes down KVCC

COMMUNITY REPORT

DOWAGIAC — The SMC Volleyball took down KVCC in a five set conference thriller 25-12, 25-13, 25-27, 21-25, and 15-11.

"One of our goals this season is of course to win all of our matches but to focus on improving our conference win record on the road," said head coach Jenny Nate. "Tonight, we came out firing with energy, but then in the third set, we let off the gas, lost a bit of our energy, and started playing a little too safe. It was a great reminder to play SMC Volleyball the entire match every point and never let up. We were able to dial it back in and came out aggressive in the final set to finish it. We will take this experience to the court with us tomorrow against Macomb and focus on playing aggressively every single point."

The Roadrunners are now 13-4 overall and 3-1 in conference play.

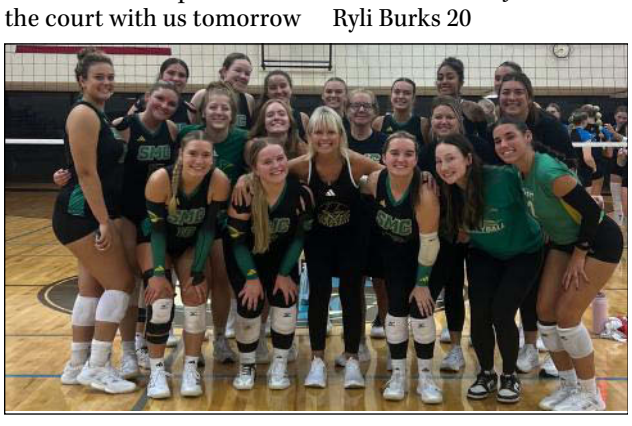
Leading serving scorers: Gia Jania 18 points, 2 aces, Talan Hiemstra 13 points, 1 ace, Cadence Knight 12 points, 3 aces, Josie West 8 points, 1 ace, Ryli Burks 5 points, 1 ace

Kills: Josie West 16, Kallie Solloway 13, Abi Marquis 10, Gia Jania 10, Talan Hiemstra 7, Ryli Burks 7

Blocks: Josie West 2, Kallie Solloway 2, Gia Jania 1, Ryli Burks 1, Abi Marquis 1

Digs: Cadence Knight 29, Anna Johnson 19, Josie West 17, Ryli Burks 14, Amanda Jones 14, Gia Jania 6

Assists: Anna Johnson 27, Ryli Burks 20



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VOLLEYBALL

Buchanan volleyball goes 2-2 at Portage Invite

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

PORTAGE — The Buchanan volleyball team went 2-2 at the Portage Invite Saturday, Sept. 21.

The Bucks defeated Sturgis 25-11,25-14 and Otsego 27-25,25-19 and were defeated by Battle Creek Lakeview 18-25,20-25 and Unity Christian 17-25,18-25.

Chloe Aalfs led the Bucks with 32 kills, 20 digs, four blocks and four aces and Alyssa Carson had 22 kills, four blocks and five aces. Finnley Kehoe had 20 digs and six aces, Emily Holt had 31 digs, Sophia Bachman 17 digs, Izzy Tibbles eight kills and Addy Warmbein four blocks.

Buchanan is now 15-2 on the season.

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Calvin football to face Kalamazoo in first-ever MIAA game

COMMUNITY REPORT

KALAMAZOO — The Calvin University football team will play its historic first MIAA conference game on Saturday night. The game at Kalamazoo College will be played under the lights at Kalamazoo's Angell Field. The game is the first night game at Kalamazoo since September 17, 1960.

Calvin is under the direction of head coach Trent Figg who guides his 110-member roster into year one this fall.

The Lead-Up – Calvin is in its first season of intercollegiate football. The Knights are playing in their MIAA opener this evening. Calvin owns lopsided wins over Oberlin (50-6) and Anderson (66-12) and has a 34-24 loss to Concordia (Wis.) in between. Kalamazoo is off to a 3-0 start for the third straight year. The Hornets own victories over Austin (26-20), Kenyon (28-7) and Manchester (55-0). Kalamazoo is bidding to open the year 4-0 for the first time since 2018 when it won its first seven games and finished 7-3 overall. Tonight is the first night game at Kalamazoo's Angell Field since September 17, 1960. The Hornets did play night football in 2011 but it was at Waldo Stadium across the street at Western Michigan University during the renovation of Angell Field.

Week Three Recap – Calvin rolled to a 66-12 victory at Anderson University last Saturday afternoon behind 475 yards of total offense including a season-high 225 yards on the ground. All four Calvin quarterbacks got into the game. Starter Chase Bradman was 13 of 21 for 175 yards and three touchdowns. Freshman Drake Irwin was 5 of 6 passing for a touchdown and ran one in for a score from one yard out. Freshman Hayden Slegers was 2 of 2 passing for 7 yards while redshirt freshman Luca Prior was 1 of 1 for 12 yards. Jaier Harden broke loose for 111 yards on the ground on nine carries while scoring a pair of rushing touchdowns. Freshman Hunter Hogan had 3 catches for 81 yards and a score. Luke Michmerhuizen had four catches for 43 yards and a score while freshman Baxter McCoy had three catches for 39 yards and a score. Freshman Sal Ruffino was 1 of 2 kicking on field goal attempts, connecting on a 28-yard boot. He also connected on nine extra-point attempts. Defensively junior Jair Nowlin had nine tackles with one interception. Senior Paul VanderPloeg collected seven tackles and broke up one pass. Former Dowagiac standout Isiah Hill totaled three tackles.

MIAA Preseason Poll – Calvin was picked to finish eighth out of eight teams in the 2024 MIAA preseason poll with defending league champion Alma selected as the MIAA's pre-season favorite. Kalamazoo was picked to finish seventh.

A Look Ahead – The Knights return home next weekend to host two-time defending MIAA champion Alma at 1 p.m. in front of a Calvin Homecoming crowd at Eagles Stadium.

BANQUET

Continued from page B1

Kessler, Alani Scott (Seventh grade, 12.95 100-meter dash), Gianna Ball, Haylei Patterson, Loryana Harris (4-10 high jump), Madison Kessler, Trenyse Mcginnis.

"We've had an amazing year," Love said. "I thank God for the parents that trust me with their children because I coach at a level that tests them mentally, physically and spiritually. It's been amazing."

For more information about Team Love Track and how to get involved, contact Love at icarechhurchniles@gmail.com.

VOLLEYBALL

Dowagiac volleyball goes 1-2 at Bridgman quad

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

BRIDGMAN — The Dowagiac volleyball team went 1-2 at the Bridgman quad Monday night.

The Chieftains were defeated by Lakeshore 24-26 and 20-25, while they defeated Bridgman 17-25 27-25 15-13. Dowagiac lost to Decatur in its third match of the night, 25-14 18-25 10-15.

"Last night I was extremely proud of the performance by my team. We fought hard and went all out during each point," said head coach Amber Todd. "We are working on improving our defense and it showed last night. Our next goal is to build on our offense and cut back on unforced hitting errors. As a whole we are really starting to play as a team, now we just need to build on consistency and finishing games."

Dowagiac (10-14) will host Brandywine at 6 p.m. Thursday in Lakeland Conference play.

Kills

Emily Henry 3, Ava Nate 7, Riley Todd 8, Claire Hess 1, Marlie Carpenter 7, Zabrina Shivers 2, Tessa Deering 10, Brianna Campbell 10

Aces

Hanah McCuddy 4, Riley Todd 6, Emerson Kruger 1, Claire Hess 5, Brenna Mott 1, Marlie Carpenter 1, Zabrina Shivers 6

Assists

Hanah McCuddy 20, Claire Hess 17, Brenna Mott 1, Marlie Carpenter 1, Zabrina Shivers 3, Tessa Deering 1, Tatiyana Lara 1

Digs

Emily Henry 2, Hanah McCuddy 14, Ava Nate 3, Riley Todd 11, Emerson Kruger 1, Claire Hess 8, Brenna Mott 6, Marlie Carpenter 2, Zabrina Shivers 18, Tessa Deering 17, Brianna Campbell 2, Tatiyana Lara 2

Blocks

Emily Henry 2, Ava Nate 2, Riley Todd 2, Marlie Carpenter 7, Tessa Deering 2, Brianna Campbell 1

FOOTBALL

JEFF DOUGLAS | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Football roundup: Edwardsburg football shuts down Three Rivers 32-0

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

EDWARDSBURG — The Eddies earned a 32-point shutout victory over the visiting Wildcats last week. Grady Ostrander had 65 yards on 10 carries and two touchdowns and Grant Griffin added two touchdown runs and Brody Schimpa added a 3-yard touchdown. Edwardsburg led 19-0 at halftime.

Niles 56, Otsego 0

The Niles football team extended its win streak to three games Friday, Sept. 20 against visiting Otsego.

The Vikings jumped out to a 56-point lead and went on to win 56-0.

Sam Rucker scored five touchdowns on seven carries totaling 143 yards and Paul Hess had eight carries for 121 yards and one touchdown while Elijah Norris added seven for 55 and a touchdown. Quarterback Talen Bennett completed 3 of 5 passes for 64 yards and a touchdown pass to Brenden Olsen, who caught two passes for 60 yards. The Vikings outgained the Bulldogs 466-47 in total yards.

On defense, Bryce Young led the team in tackles with five and Brandon Hamilton, Ward Cheney and Sam Rucker each had a sack.

Dowagiac 32, Marshall 30

The Dowagiac football team completed the comeback with a 32-30 road win over Marshall last week. Trailing 22-12 entering the fourth quarter, the Chieftains were able to score three touchdowns in the final frame to secure the victory.

Kaleb Smith led the way with 120 rushing yards and four touchdowns.

Buchanan 47, Benton Harbor 6

The Buchanan football team took care of business Friday night against Benton Harbor. The Bucks dominated both sides of the ball on their way to a 47-6 win over the Tigers. Five different Bucks found the end zone on the ground: Leland Payne (nine carries for 92 yards), Gabe Tompkins (seven carries, 73 yards), Jake Franklin (two carries, 29 yards), Tristan Nesbitt (17-yard touchdown) and Max Cornelius (two carries, 14 yards). Jake Franklin completed 1 of 1 passes for 13 yards. On defense, Isaiah Nelson led the team with six tackles and Ryann Hickok had five tackles and one sack, Ethan Frame tallied a sack and Nesbitt had an interception.

Berrien Springs 63, Brandywine 16

The Brandywine football team found tough sledding against the Shamrocks of Berrien Springs Friday night, falling 63-16 in Lakeland Conference play. The Bobcats trailed 56-8 at halftime.

Kaeden Warfield completed 2 of 4 passes for 44 yards, one touchdown and an interception while carrying the ball 14 times for 70 yards and one touchdown. Carter Sobecki added 44 yards on 12 carries and Kaden Santana grabbed a 44-yard touchdown pass.

On defense, Sobecki tallied 24 tackles.

FOOTBALL

Leonard Named to Jason Witten Collegiate Man of the Year Award Watch List

COMMUNITY REPORT

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Senior quarterback Riley Leonard has earned selection to the 2024 Jason Witten Collegiate Man of the Year Award Watch List. The award annually honors exemplary leadership by a college football player, and factors in an individual's attitude, work to overcome hardship and ability to inspire others.

A 2024 Notre Dame team captain, Leonard has also been named to the 2024 watch lists for the Walter Camp Player of the Year, the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award and the Maxwell Award. He is one of 52 players on the Witten Award's watch list.

Leonard is a two-time team captain, once at Duke in 2023, and earned selection by his teammates as a Notre Dame captain for the 2024 season. His selection as a captain came heading into his first season at Notre Dame, even more notable as he was unable to practice fully in the spring due to injury. His efforts to form relationships with his teammates and earn a starting role with the program exemplified his leadership and team-focused approach.

Leonard has led the Irish to a 3-1 record so far in 2024, with a season-opening win at No. 20 Texas A&M. Leonard ranks third among all active FBS quarterbacks in career rushing touchdowns with 25, including three in the first half alone at Purdue.

Leonard is the only Power 4 quarterback this season to rush for 100+ yards in multiple games, one of just four FBS quarterbacks this season to achieve the feat. Leonard's six rushing touchdowns this season tie for the lead among all Power 4 quarterbacks, rank T-second among FBS quarterbacks and T-11th among all FBS players. His 322 rushing yards this season rank second among Power 4 quarterbacks and fifth among all FBS quarterbacks.

In 2023, Leonard started all seven games in which he played for Duke, going 95-for-165 and 1,102 yards (57.5 percent completion rate) and three touchdowns. He rushed 58 times for 352 yards (44-yard long) and four touchdowns on the season.

In 2022, he started all 13 games for the Blue Devils, completing 250-of-392 (.638) passes for 2,967 yards with 20 touchdowns, while leading the team in rushing with 699 yards on 124 carries and 13 touchdowns. He was one of three FBS quarterbacks to amass more than 2,900 passing yards and 695 rushing yards, joining LSU's Jayden Daniels and North Carolina's Drake Maye.

NEWS

IUSB committed to first-generation student success

COMMUNITY REPORT

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Indiana University South Bend has strengthened its commitment to the success of first-generation students by joining other IU campuses in a higher education network focused on these students.

The First Scholars Network works to create transformational change for first-generation students. The network serves 429 institutions from 49 states, and the participating professionals share evidence-based practices and resources that pertain to student success.

"We are so excited to be a part of this network with the other IU campuses. In addition to the resources, networking and support, it will help us enhance initiatives for First Gen students across campus," said Kory Vitangeli, vice chancellor for student engagement.

IU South Bend will be starting a new student organization called First Gen Titans to provide mentoring and programming to first generation students, who make up a third of the student body.

"This effort coincides directly with one of the pillars in our IU 2030 strategic plan to strengthen student enrollment, retention and success," said IU South Bend Chancellor Susan Elrod. "We know that helping first generation students contributes to their social mobility and reinforces the value of higher education in our interconnected knowledge economy."

The university's strategic plan includes a commitment to providing an affordable education and student experiences that prepare graduates for success in their careers. The percentage of first-generation student enrollment is projected to increase because of the state's investment in college-going programs.

The First Scholars Network uses a multi-phase model to help higher education institutions take incremental steps to benefit first-generation students, and the networking allows members to share data and ideas, and model innovations.

"Having all IU campuses participate in the First Scholars Network will enable the university to be collectively focused and dedicated to equitably supporting IU students and ensuring first-generation student success," said Julie Payne-Kirchmeier, Indiana University's vice president for student success.

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Job Opportunities

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PUBLIC NOTICE

REGISTRATION NOTICE
NILES COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ELECTION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024

To the qualified electors of Niles Community Schools in the Counties of Berrien and Cass, State of Michigan.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT any qualified elector of the Niles Community Schools district,who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of their City/Township Clerk; the office of the County Clerk; a Secretary of State branch office, or other designated state agency. Registration forms may be obtained at their City/Township Clerk's Office or at mi.gov/vote and mailed to their City/Township Clerk. Voters who are already registered may update their registration with their local clerk or at www.expressSOS.com.

The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the local clerk is **Monday, October 21, 2024**.

After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL168.492) at their local City/Township Clerk's office.
The following City and Township Clerks will be available to receive registrations on Election Day 7:00 AM-8:00PM as well as indicated below:

BERRIEN COUNTY

NILES CITY	CLERK: Tina Bergman 333 N. 2nd Street, Suite 301, Niles 269-683-4700	Reg Hrs: 7:30 AM – 5:30 PM Mon-Thurs (Closed 12:00 PM-1:00 PM) & 7:30 AM – 11:30 AM Fri Ext Hrs: Sat, Nov 2 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM
BERRIEN TOWNSHIP (Precinct 1: Niles Community Schools Voters Only)	CLERK: Mary Jane Dean 8916 M-140, Berrien Center 269-461-6925	Reg Hrs: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Mon-Thurs Ext Hrs: Sat, Nov 2 & Sun, Nov 3 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
BERTRAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP (Precinct 1: Niles Community Schools Voters Only)	CLERK: Polly White 3835 Buffalo Road, Buchanan 269-695-5001	Reg Hrs: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Mon-Thurs Ext Hrs: Sat, Nov 2 6:00 AM - 2:00 PM
NILES CHARTER TOWNSHIP (Precincts 1, 2 & 5: Niles Community Schools Voters Only)	CLERK: Daniel Pulaski 1835 S. 11 th Street, Niles 269-684-0870	Reg Hrs: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM Mon-Fri Ext Hrs: Sat, Nov 2 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

CASS COUNTY

HOWARD TOWNSHIP (Precincts 1 & 2: Niles Community Schools Voters Only)	CLERK: Sheri Wozinak 1345 Barron Lake Rd, Niles MI 269-684-0072	Reg Hrs: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Tues - Fri Ext Hrs: Sat, Nov 2 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM & Sun, Nov 3 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
POKAGON TOWNSHIP (Precinct 1: Niles Community Schools Voters Only)	CLERK: Christina Davis 30683 Peavine St, Dowagiac MI 269-782-8756	Reg Hrs: Mon 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM Ext Hrs: Sun, Nov 3 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A GENERAL ELECTION will be held at the precincts listed above on TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024 to elect two (2) School Board Members for a six (6) year term and one (1) School Board Member for a partial term ending December 31, 2028.

Persons with special needs, as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act, should contact their city/township clerk.

Absentee ballots may be obtained from any of the clerks listed above.

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Miscellaneous Services

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Public Notices

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE

Please take notice Aloha Storage located at 3001 South 11th Street Niles MI 49120 intends to hold an auction of storage units in default of payment. The sale will occur at the facility on 10/12/2024 at 12:00PM. Unless otherwise stated in the below list of Unit #'s the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials. Unit #H014. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice.

Niles Daily Star:
Sept. 21 and 28, 2024
51781

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHARTERED TOWNSHIP OF BUCHANAN
NOTICE
OF PUBLIC HEARING
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES THROUGH SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COMMUNITY AMBULANCE SERVICE, DISTRICT NO. 1

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Township Board of the Township of Buchanan, Berrien County, Michigan, has determined to proceed with creating a special assessment district to defray, in whole or part, the Township'sshare of the cost of providing ambulance and emergency medical services through the Southwestern Michigan Community Ambulance Service. The Township Board has tentatively determined that all or part of the Township's share of such cost will be specially assessed against all residential units, commercial parcels, industrial parcels, and agricultural parcels within the Township, unless such lands and premises are exempt by law from paying special assessments. "Residential unit" includes each unit in multiple family dwellings, apartments, condominiums and townhouses, and includes each pad in a mobile home or manufactured housing community.
TAKE NOTICE that the Township Board will hold a public hearing at a meeting of the Township Board on October 10, 2024, at 6:30 p.m., at the Township Hall, 15235 Main Street, Buchanan, Michigan 49107, to hear and consider any objections to the proposed special assessment, the district and all other matters relating to the Special Assessment District for Emergency Medical Services through Southwestern Michigan Community Ambulance Service.
TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that property will not be added to the proposed special assessment district without further notice and public hearing.
This Notice was authorized by the Township Board of the Township of Buchanan.
Dated: September 19, 2024
Wendi Heyliger, Township Clerk

Niles Daily Star:
Sept. 28, 2024
HEARING

PUBLIC NOTICE

HOWARD TOWNSHIP
CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

Supervisor Kasprzak called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Business Office, 1345 Barron Lake Road, Niles. The Pledge to the Flag was recited. Board members present: Wozniak, Gordon, Kasprzak, Conover, Johnson, Daly and Hurlbutt were present.

BOARD ACTION
Approved Meeting Agenda.
Approved the minutes of the 08/20/24 Board meeting
Approved the financial report with an ending balance of 1,355,034.11 including a CD
Approved the payment of bills through September 17, 2024
Approved the departmental reports
Bids will be accepted for snow removal for 2024-2025
Adjourn the meeting at 7:16p.m.

Niles Daily Star:
Sept. 28, 2024
MEETING SYNOPSIS

Do you have available jobs?
Call 269-591-6105 to let others know about job opportunities at your business.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF ELECTION
GENERAL ELECTION
NOVEMBER 5, 2024
CITY OF NILES

To the qualified electors of the City of Niles in the County of Berrien, State of Michigan, notice is hereby given that the **GENERAL ELECTION** will be held in the following precincts on **Tuesday, November 5, 2024** for the purpose of nominating the President and Vice President of the United States, Representatives for U.S. Congress, State Representatives, County Offices, State, Community and
Local School Offices, Local Offices, as well as the following Local Proposal.

CITY OF NILES PARK MAINTENANCE MILLAGE
Shall the City of Niles impose a new millage and thus an increase of up to 1.5 mills ($1.50 per $1,000 of taxable value) in the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Sec. 31 of the Michigan Constitution and levy it for four (4) years, 2024 through 2027 inclusive, to provide funding for city-wide park construction and maintenance, including but not limited to, trail maintenance, equipment replacement, construction of a spray pad, and associated maintenance, which 1.5 mills increase will raise an estimated $406,807.37 in 2024 of which a portion will be disbursed to the Main Street Downtown Development Authority, and such other local units of government determined appropriate or required.
Persons with special needs, as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act, should contact their local Clerk.
The Clerk's office will be **open Saturday, November 2,** from 7am to 3pm to accept Absentee Ballots and Voter Registration for the City of Niles.
Go to Michigan.gov/vote to view your sample ballot.
The election will be held at the places in the City of Niles as indicated below:
Precinct 1 Niles-Buchanan YMCA 905 N. Front Street
Precinct 2 Niles-Buchanan YMCA 905 N. Front Street
Precinct 3 Fire Station 1345 E. Main Street
Precinct 4 Niles FOP Lodge 95 531 N. State Street

TINA BERGMAN,
CITY CLERK
CITY OF NILES,
333 N. 2ND STREET
NILES, MI 49120-0487
(269) 683-4700 ext. 3030
cityclerk@nilesmi.org

Niles Daily Star:
Sept. 28, 2024
NOTICE OF ELECTION

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

SYNOPSIS OF THE MINUTES OF THE ONTWA TOWNSHIP SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

The Ontwa Township Special Public Hearing was called to order at 6:45pm on September 9, 2024.
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll call showed Supervisor Marchetti, Clerk VanBelle, Treasurer Leist,
Trustees Stutsman, Kozinski, Christensen and Bolock were present.
Approval of the Agenda
Public Comment: No public comment.
New Business: Public hearing on increasing property taxes
Adjournment: 6:57pm
Minutes of Board of Trustee meetings may be found on the Township website:
www.ontwatwp.org
Respectfully submitted by Tina VanBelle, Ontwa Township Clerk
Approved for Publication by Supervisor Jerry Marchetti

Niles Daily Star:
Sept. 28, 2024
SYNOPSIS

PUBLIC NOTICE

SYNOPSIS
OF THE MINUTES OF THE ONTWA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

The regular meeting of the Ontwa Township Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:58pm following the public meeting.
Roll call showed Supervisor Marchetti, Clerk VanBelle, Treasurer Leist, Trustees Stutsman, Kozinski, Christensen and Bolock were present.
Approval of the Agenda
Public Comment: Galen Laplace, Jill Meunnick, Adam Lindley, Jimmy Otis,
Approval of Consent Agenda
Commissioner Report: Roseann Marchetti
Committee Board Reports: No reports this month.
Old Business: Elkhart Road Bike Path
New Business: Sad Resolutions, Custom Fence for ambulance, National See
Tracks-Think Train Proclamation, Resolution 2024-9-9.7, Master Plan
Distribution, Wastewater B3 B4 Wet Well Lining, Cemetery.
Schedule of township meetings: Board of Trustees October 14th, Ambulance
Board cancelled for September, Police Board September 12th , Wastewater
Board September 25th, Planning Commission October 2nd, Parks & Recreation October 7th.
Adjournment: 8:10pm
Minutes of Board of Trustee meetings may be found on the Township website:
www.ontwatwp.org
Respectfully submitted by Tina VanBelle, Ontwa Township Clerk
Approved for Publication by Supervisor Jerry Marchetti

Niles Daily Star:
Sept. 28, 2024
SYNOPSIS 09.09.24

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BERRIEN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE
2024-0599-DE-G
Hon. Gordon G. Hosbein

Court address 811 Port Street Floor 4 St. Joseph, MI 49085
Court telephone no. 269-983-7111

Estate of Susan Anne Walker, Deceased
Date of birth: August 7, 1952
TO ALL CREDITORS:

Legal Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Susan Anne Walker, died May 13, 2024. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Mark Walker, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 811 Port Street, Floor 4 St. Joseph, MI 49085 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Mark Walker 13437 Falls Drive Broomfield, CO 80020 949-537-9184

James J. Mollison, P17884, 4 South Lincoln Avenue, Niles, MI 49120, 269-684-7600

Niles Daily Star:
Sept. 28, 2024
EST/WALKER, S.

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1 The HughesNet Gen5 service plans are designed to deliver download speeds of 25 Mbps and upload speeds of 3 Mbps, but individual customers may experience different speeds at different times of the day. Speeds and uninterrupted use are not guaranteed and may vary based on a variety of factors including: the configuration of your computer, the number of concurrent users, network or Internet congestion, the capabilities and content of the Websites you are accessing, network management practices as deemed necessary, and other factors. When you connect to the HughesNet service using Wi-Fi, your experience will vary based on your proximity to the Wi-Fi source and the strength of the signal.
2. **Free standard installation** applies to new Lease subscribers only. Not valid with Purchase option. Limited-time offer. Restrictions may apply.
3. Per the "5th, 6th, 7th and 8th FCC Measuring Broadband American Reports." Go to: https://www.hughes.com/who-we-are/resources/press-releases/
- Minimum term required. Monthly service and early termination fees apply. Visit legal.HughesNet.com for details.
- HughesNet is a registered trademark of Hughes Network Systems, LLC, an EchoStar Company.

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